

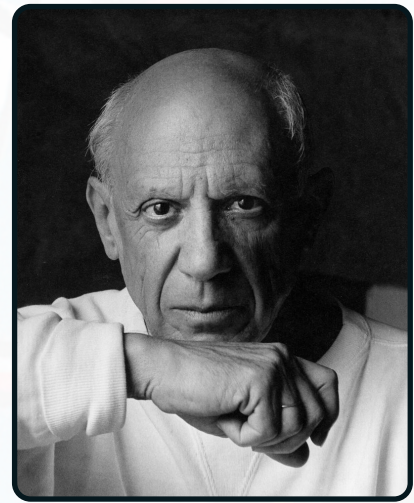
# Pablo Picasso

His art is instantly recognisable around the world and he is renowned for inventing both the style of cubism and collage but how did he become this famous artist, what inspired him and how will he be remembered?

## Early Life

Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1881. When he was baptised, his name was 23 words long: Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan

Nepomunceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Martyr Patricio Clito Ruis y Picasso. It is thought that he was named after his parents' friends and family members.



His father was a painter and art teacher and he is known for being particularly talented at painting birds. His son showed a keen interest in art from a young age and so Picasso's father gave his son art lessons. According to his mum, the young artist's first word was 'piz' (short for 'lapiz') which is the Spanish word for pencil. This passion – and talent for art – became even more evident when he completed his first painting – 'Le Picador' – when he was just nine years old! Unfortunately, Picasso had little interest in school and often got into trouble; however, it was clear to everyone that he was an extremely talented artist.

Therefore, at the age of 13, he joined the School of Fine Arts in Barcelona. Unsurprisingly, given his dislike for formal education, Picasso was often sent to detention for misbehaving whilst studying there as he often got bored learning about the classic styles. He was more interested in looking forwards and creating something new and contemporary. This was still the case when he transferred to one of Spain's top art schools to study – Madrid's Royal Academy of San Fernando.

## Life as an Artist

In 1900, at the age of 19, Picasso relocated to Paris. Whilst here, he met Max Jacobs, who was a journalist who helped the young artist to learn French.





During his time here, between 1901 and 1904, Picasso was depressed. In 1901, Pablo's close friend – Carlos Casagemas – committed suicide, which is likely to have caused his depressed state. During this time, he found it difficult to mix with his friends, leading to him spending lots of time alone. This depression was reflected in his work and it is referred to as the 'Blue Period' as his paintings became very serious and were dominated by dark blue and green tones. As can be seen in the painting, 'The Old Guitarist', the people Picasso painted often had elongated features and faces.



Picasso's artwork clearly demonstrated his mood and, between 1904 and 1906, he was noticeably happier. This period is called the 'Rose Period' as he used much warmer colours in his paintings, rather than the cooler tones he had previously preferred. Art historians claim that the reason for his happiness was due to his new relationship with a French model, who he was apparently deeply in love with. At this time, he also painted happier scenes such as circuses.

In 1905, some of Picasso's paintings were purchased by some American art collectors. This made Picasso famous around the world.

### Creating Cubism

When Picasso first started painting, he did so in a realistic manner; however, his later work was much more abstract in style. By 1907, Picasso had started to experiment with his painting style and he started to collaborate with another artist – Georges Braque. Together, by 1909, the two artists had created a new style of painting called 'Cubism'. This was a style of painting in which artists would paint an object or person from different angles using geometric shapes. The style was dominated by geometric shapes, straight lines and bold colours and was inspired by the work of Paul Cézanne.





In 1912, Picasso and the other artists began to add other materials to their paintings which led to the invention of collage. In order to create texture, Picasso added sand or plaster to his work and also was known to use a range of other media: coloured paper, newspapers and wallpaper. This helped to add another dimension to his work.

### Further Styles

As well as being famous for co-creating Cubism and collage and using these styles in his artwork, Picasso continued to be inspired by other art movements. From 1921, he began to paint in a more classical style and borrowed many ideas from the Renaissance painter, Raphael. Pieces of art at this time include 'Woman in White' and 'The Pipes of Pan'.

In addition to this, he also showed an immense interest in the emerging Surrealist movement. This artwork was not meant to make any sense; instead, it would include things you might see in a dream or a nightmare. Picasso is not known to be a member of the movement but he was still clearly inspired by what he saw and this is demonstrated in his famous painting, 'Guernica', which was a reaction to the Civil War in Spain.



Picasso continued to dominate the art world for the rest of his life, creating a huge number of paintings, sculptures and collages. Towards the end of his life, he painted a number of self-portraits, with one of his last ones thought to be entitled 'Self-Portrait Facing Death'.

Pablo Picasso died on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1973, at the age of ninety-one, in France. During his lifetime, he produced an astonishing 1,800 paintings and 1,200 sculptures, which are still being sold today for millions of pounds!



## QUESTIONS

1. What is surprising about Picasso's name? Circle one. (1 mark)

It includes names of his family and friends.

His first and last name start with the letter 'P'.

It contains 23 words.

It contains many Spanish names.

2. Why was Picasso's first word appropriate to his life? (2 marks)

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3. Answer true or false to the following statements. (4 marks)

True

False

His first painting was called 'The Weeping Woman'.

☐☐

Picasso was a keen student and was eager to learn.

☐☐

He became a student at the School of Fine Arts as a teenager.

☐☐

Picasso preferred modern artwork compared to the classical style.

☐☐

4. How old was Picasso when he moved to Paris? (1 mark)

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5. Between 1901 and 1904, Picasso's work is often referred to as the 'Blue Period'. Why was this? (3 marks)

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6. What caused Picasso to alter his artistic style from the 'Blue Period' to the 'Rose Period'? (1 mark)

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7. Tick to show whether the statements are a fact or an opinion. (4 marks)

Statements	Fact	Opinion
Picasso's initial paintings were realistic in style.		
Picasso worked with Georges Braque to create 'Cubism'.		
Cubism was an exciting way to represent objects and people on canvas.		
Picasso used a range of media to add texture to his work.		

8. Name two pieces of artwork which were more classical in style and were inspired by the Renaissance painter, Raphael. (2 marks)

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9. What is meant by the term 'Surrealist Movement'? (2 marks)

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10. What event was the painting 'Guernica' inspired by? (1 mark)

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## ANSWERS

1. What is surprising about Picasso's name? Circle one. (1 mark)

It includes names of his family and friends.

His first and last name start with the letter 'P'.

It contains 23 words.

It contains many Spanish names.

2. Why was Picasso's first word appropriate to his life? (2 marks)

His first word was 'piz' which was short for lapis – Spanish for pencil. This is appropriate as Picasso would grow up to be a very famous artist and artists use pencils to sketch their work.

3. Answer true or false to the following statements. (4 marks)

His first painting was called 'The Weeping Woman'.

True

False

☐

Picasso was a keen student and was eager to learn.

☐

He became a student at the School of Fine Arts as a teenager.

☐

Picasso preferred modern artwork compared to the classical style.

☐

4. How old was Picasso when he moved to Paris? (1 mark)

19

5. Between 1901 and 1904, Picasso's work is often referred to as the 'Blue Period'. Why was this? (3 marks)

Many of his paintings at this time used large amounts of dark blue and greens tones within them and the content was much more serious in nature. This is thought to reflect Picasso's depressed state of mind at this time. One of the factors that led to his depression was the death of his friend – Carlos Casagemas – from suicide. This depression caused Pablo to spend a lot of time alone.

6. What caused Picasso to alter his artistic style from the 'Blue Period' to the 'Rose Period'? (1 mark)

He was much happier because of his new relationship with a French model, who he was apparently deeply in love with.

7. Tick to show whether the statements are a fact or an opinion. (4 marks)

Statements	Fact	Opinion
Picasso's initial paintings were realistic in style.	✓	
Picasso worked with Georges Braque to create 'Cubism'.	✓	
Cubism was an exciting way to represent objects and people on canvas.		✓
Picasso used a range of media to add texture to his work.	✓	

8. Name two pieces of artwork which were more classical in style and were inspired by the Renaissance painter, Raphael. (2 marks)

'Woman in White' and 'The Pipes of Pan'.

9. What is meant by the term 'Surrealist Movement'? (2 marks)

Surreal means strange or weird and this was a style of art that was even more abstract. It did not make any sense. It included things you might see in a dream or a nightmare.

10. What event was the painting 'Guernica' inspired by? (1 mark)

The Spanish Civil War